tioned "Pak's bid to convince Russia" appeared in the Hindustran Times dated 20th July, 1994 about the changing stand taken by Russia on the Kashmir issue;

(b) whether it is a fact that during the recent visit of our Prime Minister to Russia Kashmir issue was discussed; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Russia on the Kashmir issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Russian Government has reiterated that it stand remains unchanged, which is that the issue should be resolved through peaceful bileteral negotiations between India and Pakistan within the framework provided by the Simla Agreement of 1972. The Russian Government is against the internationalisation of the Kashmir issue.

Joint Secreatry level talks with Pakistan

2868. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has recently revived the proposal for Joint Secretary level talks with Pakistan to review the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Diplomatic Personnel agreed upon by the two sides in August 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the response of the Pakistan Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Government proposed on April 7, 1994 to the Government of Pakistan that consultations between the two Foreign Offices at the level of Joint Secretary may be held for a review of the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan. In the light of numerous incidents of intimidatory surveillance and harassment meted out to the Indian diplomatic officials and their family members posted in our missions in Pakistan. On July 12, 1994 Government reiterated its earlier proposal to hold discussions between the two Foreign Offices to review the implementation of the Code of Conduct. This proposal has not yet found favour with Islamabad. Meanwhile, discussions were recently held in New Delhi and in Islamabad between officials of the concerned Mission and Ministry to discuss the range of issues involved. Several suggestions were made on ways and means of improving implementation of the Code of Conduct in letter and spirit. Both sides also agreed to hold further discussion on this subject.

Offers on UNOSOM-II

2869. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the offices of Chief of Staff UNOSOM-II (Somalia) and UN Force Commander, Cyprus came our way;

(b) whether Government let go the two offers; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The UN had offered to India, the post of Force Commander of the United Nations force in Cyprus. Although India has provided a panel of three suitable officers from the Indian Army, it now appear that an Indian candidate for this post will not enjoy consensus support from the parties involved. Hence India is not pressing for this appointment.

The post of Chief of Staff in the UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM-II) had also been offered to India, after June'94. However, since the present mandate of UNOSOM-II is only till September 1994 and the operation is expected to end by March'95, the UN is now of the view that